

George Brown did not shy away from asking the tough questions. He pointed out that "It is still difficult to draw a correlation between scientific and technological capability on the one hand and quality of life on the other." He reminded us that if we look at the world as a whole, it is not at all clear that advances in science and technology have translated into sustainable advances in the quality of life for the majority of the human race.

He warned us of the potential societal crisis fueled by a deteriorating public education system, unaffordable health care, ethnic polarization, urban violence, environmental degradation, and the lack of political courage and leadership necessary for decisive action on these matters. Representative George E. Brown, Jr. had that kind of courage and he demonstrated it in each of his 18 terms in this House. George Brown never took the easy or politically expedient way. What a model he provided for us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I would like to add, Marta, that I felt that memorializing your husband, our colleague, in statutory hall, where he was surrounded by some of the greatest leaders of this country, was appropriate because in my mind George was as great as all of them and he should be in that hall. He is in this hall here tonight, because as long as someone is in our minds, they are here.

We have heard from his colleagues tonight. What a great father for the State of California. I do not think anybody understood what made California tick, what made California the center of so many excellences, the center of excellence for electronics, the center of excellence for the entertainment industry, the center of excellence for agriculture, and so many kinds of agriculture. Agriculture in the north and agriculture in the south, totally different. From row crops to forestry, to all kinds of diversity, he understood the diversity of the people who live in the great State of California.

When we talked to him, we realized that we were talking to someone who grasped the entire potential of California. I think he saw that defined through science and technology; that if we could take enough good minds and put those good minds to practical use on beautiful places, like the diversity, the geographical diversity, that we cannot help but solve problems. And those problems are not just solved for California, they are solved for the United States. And when they are solved for the United States, they are solved for the world.

Just a remarkable human being in our time. Every one of us was touched by him. I think that he was, indeed, one of the fathers of modern California, and for that we will forever remember him as one of the great statues of this great state.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to use 5 minutes, because my colleagues have spoken much more eloquently than I could, and I also want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) for delaying his long awaited special order to allow us to complete this California memory of George Brown.

I think that the centerpiece and the trademark of our democracy in this House of Representatives is civility. The ability of the Members of the House to have close quarters combat on values and on philosophy and yet remain civil to each other. And I think if there was anything that George Brown taught not only the delegation but the rest of the House it was civility.

He did all the things that my colleagues have mentioned. When we on the Republican side ran strong, tough races against him, the next time we saw him, he would be smiling, he would be beaming, he would be winning, and he would not hold it against you. It was an amazing lesson. I think it was a lesson that we all ourselves tried to emulate, and in that sense he threw a rock into the pond and caused a lot of ripples of civility. He helped us to be better to each other.

He was a guy with a great good sense of humor. I recall when we were working the Salton Sea project, which he was a real champion of, and he worked with the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the gentleman from California (Mr. BONO), the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. Bono), the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), and myself on that project, and one day, on an extremely windy day, we went to the Salton Sea, which is fed by the most polluted river in North America, the New River, when the waves were about two feet high and had whitecaps, and we were to go out with the Secretary of the Interior Mr. Babbitt on these air boats and tour the Salton Sea.

As George and I walked down to our air boat, I noticed that our two seats were extremely low to the water. And I looked over at the Secretary of the Interior's air boat and he had a high seat that was about five feet off the water. And I asked a friend of mine, who was a native there in Imperial Valley, and George Brown was born in Imperial Valley, in Holtville, he was really a man of the desert, and I asked this friend of mine, do you want to go out? And he says, not on your life. He said, this is the most polluted stuff in North America. He said, you are going to be catching that stuff right in your teeth.

So I suggested to the fish and wildlife people, who were conducting the tour, that maybe George and I might be allowed to ride in the air boat that had the high seats. And, of course, we were

denied that privilege. That went to Mr. Babbitt. So George says, looks like they have a little something less for us. They provided us with a single sheet of plastic. I think we were to pull up like a makeshift windshield to keep ourselves from getting too much of this pollution in the teeth.

We got lots of it that day. And here was George Brown, a guy who had immense prestige and political power, and could have been doing a lot more comfortable things than riding around in the Salton Sea with whitecaps coming over the stern of this little air boat, because he believed in this cause of cleaning up the Salton Sea. That was George Brown. A man of great civility, a man with great good humor.

And I like to think of George as being a real product of this country that he came from, this Imperial County, Imperial Valley. He was born in Holtville, the carrot capital of the world, where they do a lot of farming, where people are hard working Americans, they are open and straightforward, and they all seem to have a sense of humor. And I think that George acceded to that desert sense of humor in the best way, brought it to this House and this chamber, and helped to make us all better people and better representatives because of it.

So I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for putting on this very important service. George Brown is going to live for a long time in our hearts and I think in our actions, because I think we are all going to be a little better to each other. We are still going to have those tough differences, and I think that is good, but we have a democracy that is a model for the rest of the world because we are civil, and George Brown was a leader in civility.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) for delaying his special order to give us the opportunity to pay tribute to someone who in my short time here in the United States Congress was a mentor and a tutor.

George Brown made the Committee on Science fun. And I guess that is something that I should be admonished not to say, because in this House we are about the people's business and we are serious in doing that business. But what I found in George Brown is that he loved science, but he had a holistic approach to science. Even though his expertise or his advocacy or his interests might have fallen in one area of science versus another, he was open enough to be able to take those groups of us on the Committee on Science that had our own interests in perhaps ensuring that there was more unmanned